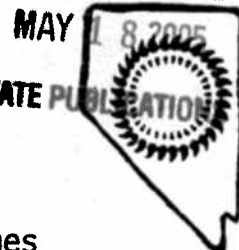


NEVADA CLIMATE SUMMARY



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SYNOPSIS

December was a drier than usual month, with temperatures averaging near normal Statewide. The only big climate news this month is the return to dry conditions after a one-year hiatus in a drought that began in 1986. With only a very few exceptions the 1993-94 Water Year has gotten off to a horrible start with most of the state averaging less than 2/3 of normal. In some areas it is much worse, with only 1/2 or less of normal precipitation for the first 3 months of the Water Year. For example, in the Northeast Elko, Mountain City, and Wildhorse Reservoir have had only 1/3 of normal, as has Las Vegas and Searchlight in the South. In the Sierra Nevada Woodfords is also only 1/3 of normal, with only 40% of normal at Tahoe City. Only McGill (110%), Mina (110%) and Boulder City (109%) are above normal through December.

TEMPERATURE

Temperatures averaged very near normal Statewide. The only exception was the Reno Airport, where a persistent warm anomaly the past few months is probably more the result of Airport construction than urban heating.

State records for extreme temperatures in December (-46 & 91) were not approached as the mercury fell to only -16 at Charleston during the third week of December, and rose to only 72 at Amargosa Valley on the 11th. It was also -13 at Penoyer Valley and -10 at Twin Springs, Reese River and Mountain City. Other highs include 71 at Laughlin and 70 at Calville Bay.

PRECIPITATION

The only reporting station in Nevada that had above normal precipitation this month was Pahrump, where the .46" was .02" above normal. The remainder of the Silver State generally saw much less than normal.

The wettest reporting site was Verdi Peak near Reno with 2.94" & .34" of snow, both well below normal for this mountain location at 7500 feet elevation. Vya had 1.38", Incline 1.36" and a paltry 12" of snow, and Verdi 1.33". On the really dry side Boulder Beach, Goldfield, and Duckwater had no precipitation.

SUNSHINE, WIND & EVAPORATION

Sunshine hours were well above normal over Nevada during this dry month. Las Vegas had a near record 90% of the possible hours (normal=78%), with Ely at a record 84% (normal=65%). Reno had 69% of the possible hours and a normal of 64%.

Wind speeds also averaged above normal this month, except only near normal in the South. Highest speeds recorded were in the 65-75mph range in Far Western Nevada near mid-month.

Due to freeze-up evaporation was only measured at only 2 sites - Boulder City and Overton, with an above normal 4.02" and 2.42", respectively, of pan evaporation.

NOTE 1: In January 1916 a still record 65.5" of snow fell in Reno, 22.5" of which occurred on one day! Las Vegas had 12" in one day on December 21st, 1909! In more recent years 16.5" fell in January 1949.

NOTE 2: We continue our salute to Nevada's volunteer weather observers with Esmeralda and Eureka counties.

Esmeralda County

Dyer	Deborah Michelson
Goldfield	County Sherrif's Office
Gold Point	Dick Engle
Lida	Jack Vogt
Silverpeak	Foote Minerals

Eureka County

Beowawe	Duane Hatch
Beowawe U N Ranch	University of Nevada
Carlin Newmont	Newmont Gold Mining Co.
Diamond Valley USDA	Cheryl Morrison
Emigrant Pass	State Highway Dept.
Eureka	County Sherrif
Pine Valley	Donna Bailey

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